

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise on another somber day of remembrance of the Khojaly tragedy which occurred on February 26, 1992, 30 years ago. I am here once again to acknowledge this historic tragedy and commemorate the lives lost that day.

Azerbaijan is an area of unlimited potential and the Azerbaijanis have carved out a remarkable society and a stable government after decades of struggle under Soviet rule. This success was not achieved without struggle.

From its oppressive governance and collapse the Soviets created conflict in several regions. For Azerbaijan, problems with neighboring Armenia erupted into the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In this initial conflict, one notable tragic incident occurred on February 26, 1992.

In the town of Khojaly in the Karabakh region, civilian Azeris were subjected to indiscriminate shelling and targeting. From these attacks it is reported that up to 613 civilians died with more wounded and taken hostage.

We cannot change what happened but we can remember the victims and remind the world that the targeting of civilians is never acceptable. We must learn from the past as we continue to pursue a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which continues today. The U.S. advocates for a peace which honors the memory of those who perished at Khojaly so no one will suffer the same fate.

Madam Speaker, today we solemnly remember the Khojaly victims and we will keep them in our hearts and minds as we foster a strong working relationship between our two countries and pursue a peaceful and fair resolution to the conflict.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF ANN D. CARLSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent and friend Ann D. Carlson, who is retiring from her position as the Mendocino National Forest Supervisor after 33 years of federal service. I had the privilege of working with Ann to ensure our National Forests in California were healthy and effectively managed.

Ann began her career at Tahoe National Forest serving as a fish biologist, where she conducted stream surveys, built partnerships with local groups to provide aquatic restoration opportunities, environmental education and improved fishing, including coordinating kids fishing events. After 13 years of improving fish habitat and community relations, Ann took her skills to Missoula, Montana to work as the R1 Regional Aquatic Ecologist. Following her time in Montana, Ann was detailed to South Dakota as Acting District Ranger for Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and then to Boise as Acting

Deputy Forest Supervisor at the Boise National Forest. She then went onto Lassen National Forest in California to serve as the Eagle Lake District Ranger. In addition, she was also detailed to Modoc and Sequoia National Forests as Acting Forest Supervisor.

Ann concluded her career while serving as Forest Supervisor at Mendocino National Forest. At Mendocino National Forest, Ann tirelessly worked on wildfire prevention and forest management to protect the communities who are frequently impacted by forest fires. Ann was critically important for disaster response and forest recovery efforts to numerous conflagrations including the 2019 Complex Fire. Throughout her career Ann supplemented her work with additional training programs, such as participating in the Senior Leadership Program (SLP6) in 2009 to learn more about common and emerging leadership and management issues while developing strategies for effective change.

Beyond Ann's passion for our National Forests, she is also very active and enjoys traveling and outdoor activities including biking, running, cross-country skiing, fly fishing and hiking. The same year that she participated in Senior Leadership Program she also completed the New York Marathon—what an achievement. Ann is also a dedicated mother, when she began her career she had not accrued enough leave and had to bring her daughter, Tess, into the office and field. I'm sure this contributed to Tess's love for the outdoors just like her mom.

I congratulate Ann on her prestigious career with the United States Forest Service and wish her well in retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the United States Colored Troops Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the Union Army and 19,000 African American men served in the Union Navy. I am proud to present this overdue expression of our national appreciation for these remarkable individuals. Senator CORY BOOKER has introduced the companion bill.

Since the colonial era, African Americans have served the United States in times of war.

While African American men served in the Navy since its establishment, there was resistance to enlisting them to take up arms for the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. It was not until January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, that the Union Army was ordered to receive African American men. On May 22, 1863, the United States War Department issued General Order Number 143, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops for the recruitment and organization of regiments of the Union Army composed of African American men, called the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Lead-

ers such as Frederick Douglass encouraged African Americans to enlist to advance the cause of citizenship: "Once let the [B]lack man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.,' let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on [E]arth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship," wrote Douglass.

African American sailors constituted a significant segment of the Union Navy, making up 20 percent of the Navy's total enlisted force. Although there were rank restrictions on African Americans in the Navy before the Civil War, this policy changed after the establishment of the USCT, when the Union Navy started to compete with the Union Army for enlistment of African Americans. Yet, in practice, most African Americans could not advance beyond the lowest ranks of "boy" and "landsman." In the Union Army, USCT fought at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana; in Petersburg, Virginia; and in Nashville, Tennessee, among other sites. The USCT at first were paid less, were given used uniforms and poor equipment and could never become officers. Many USCT were assigned as guards on fortifications throughout the Union, including the Defenses of Washington, which, by 1865, was one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world. During the Civil War, African American women were not allowed to formally enlist as soldiers or sailors, though they served as nurses, cooks, spies and scouts for the Union Army and the Union Navy.

For generations after the Civil War, the contributions of the African Americans who served with Union forces were excluded from historical memory. Not until Public Law No. 102-412, which I sponsored and which authorized the establishment of a memorial on federal land to honor African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, were they officially commemorated. This memorial, located in the District of Columbia, features a bronze statue of soldiers, an African American sailor and family, and is surrounded by The Wall of Freedom, which lists the names of the members of the USCT.

Patriots and heroes who rose in service to a nation that would not fully recognize them, the African Americans who served the Union during the Civil War deserve our recognition for their contributions to the grant of emancipation and citizenship for nearly four million enslaved people and to the preservation of the Union.

CELEBRATING COOPER KUPP'S VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL LVI

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Central Washington's native sons on his remarkable accomplishments, and to commend him on his sportsmanship, character, and honorable representation of his community. From his time as a student athlete at Davis High School in Yakima to his impressive career at Eastern Washington University to leading the Los Angeles Rams to a show-stopping win and being named MVP at Super Bowl LVI, Cooper Kupp